

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

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No. 2

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The Official Organ of the South African Library Association

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OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US

by

D. H. VARLEY

SOUTH AFRICAN librarians are rightly proud of the advances that have been made in the provision of library facilities throughout the Union during the past ten or fifteen years. Thus the expenditure on public library services alone, which was approximately £100,000 in 1937, rose to £250,000 in 1947, and to no less than £1,300,000 in 1957. The number of books circulated increased from 3 million in 1937 to six million in 1947, and an estimated 16 million in 1957. Provincial library services in each of the four Provinces have grown in this period from nothing at all to rapidly expanding and flourishing organizations, with modern ideas and equipment. On almost any count, the development of our public library services in recent years can be described as a remarkable transformation scene.

But even more significant is the fact that in this process of growing – gawky in places, like the growth of any adolescent – South African librarianship is at last coming to the stage of maturity where not only criticism, but also self-criticism, can be both tolerated and welcomed. It is thirty years since the Carnegie Commissioners came to South Africa, saw, and judged us wanting. To-day, although we are still far from the ideal, we have sufficient self-confidence in our collective library achievements to invite the observations of informed colleagues from overseas, and our own library ambassadors who travel abroad are able to see both our stronger and weaker points in a clearer light than ever before.

It therefore gives particular pleasure and interest to read two recent reports on South African librarianship: the one written in Netherlands by two senior librarians from the Netherlands, Miss C. A. van Dijk and Miss M. Wijnstroom,¹ who spent eleven weeks in the Union at the invitation of the Cape Provincial Library Service, and the other by Mr. H. M. Robinson,² Library Organizer for the Transvaal Province, who spent four months in the United States and Canada (at the invitation of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and with the support of the Transvaal Administration) studying recent developments in rural library provision, with a particular eye to our own needs and inclinations. These two reports, broadly covering the same area of librarianship, make an instructive contrast; they are both characterized by an intelligent curiosity and willingness to learn; and their conclusions are of value not only to the organizations that sponsored them, but to all librarians who really care for the future of their profession in this country.

¹ *Report of Miss C. A. van Dijk and Miss M. Wijnstroom's visit to South Africa at the invitation of the Provincial Library Service of the Cape Province (Union of South Africa – Department of Education, Arts and Science. Circular minute no. E. 261/4/1 of 9.7.1958). 13 leaves.*

² *H. M. Robinson, Report to the Transvaal Provincial Administration on the Transvaal Provincial Library Service, compiled in the light of a visit to the United States of America and Canada, April-October, 1957 v.p. (Pretoria, Transvaal Provincial Library Service, 1958).*

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The reporters from the Netherlands, one of whom had previously travelled widely in the United States, and both of whom had enjoyed extensive experience of library organization in European countries, were impressed by much of the "organizational" side of our work; by the legislative framework, the system by which local enterprise is supplemented by centrally organized book service and its auxiliary media of films, gramophone records and art prints, and by the efforts being made to train the "small town" librarians on whom so much depends at the consuming end. In all these aspects of library work, the public libraries of the Netherlands still have something to learn, and our visitors have made no bones about their own deficiencies. On the other hand, and in case we are too complacent about our own achievements, they point out that the services they examined were seriously lacking in "echt leeszaalwerk" – in reader's advisory and extension work, in the provision of libraries for adolescents at one end of the scale, and for the aged and infirm at the other; that the standard of information service was weak, and the standard of book selection, as manifest by the books on the shelves of the smaller library, reaching "een bedenkelijke peil: doordat men grote hoeveelheden cowboy-boeken en wild-west verhalen aanschaft". It must of course be remembered that our visitors were commenting on a library service in the early stages of its transformation process.

Quality rather than quantity, however, is the aim that our library administrators have publicly asserted, and the importance of setting up standards of service and training has been fully recognized by the leaders of our profession in South Africa. But what is most sadly wanting – and this point is rightly emphasized by Mr. Robinson in his cogent and valuable report – is the trained manpower in sufficient quality and quantity to exploit the great potentialities of our public library services. Not only is the present generation of library recruits lacking in a sense of vocation and adventure, he asserts, but the training we offer them in our ever-increasing number of library schools is insufficiently practical, and avoids the problems and challenges of day-to-day service to the library user who, in the long run, really matters most: the man in the street, on the veld, on the farm.

It is a special merit of this second report that

its author, while suitably impressed by many aspects of life and librarianship in the United States, has been able to sift out those developments which are likely to be of useful application to our South African conditions, without being bowled over into a state of uncritical acceptance of all he has seen. Thus a study of the tensions between the tightly organized local communities in America, jealous of their autonomy, and the States, confirms his impression that the balance of power in South Africa between Central, Provincial and local authorities is on the whole more happily preserved; and there are technical and other developments over there which he declares, with admirable frankness, are not to be recommended for adoption in our different situation over here.

Two further points from this essay in controlled enthusiasm deserve mention here: firstly, its author's conviction that no water-tight divisions should be allowed to exist between different types of library service – university, public, school, special, or of whatever other category. This point was made at the Cape Town Conference more than ten years ago, but it has not been taken to heart. Secondly, Mr. Robinson has taken an enlightened statement of book selection policy from two American libraries, and written it into a recommended book selection policy for his own Administration's service. One sentence from this statement of policy should be displayed in letters of fire in every one of our South African libraries: "No book should be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious views of the writer". It is a sentiment some of us honour more in the breach than in the observance.

There is no space here to mention the many other interest-awakening and in some cases fundamental points raised in this report. It is perhaps sufficient to return to what Mr. Robinson regards, surely with justice, as the key to the whole situation. Commenting on problems of staffing, he remarks: "We (in South Africa) are far behind in all aspects, from recruiting and training on the one hand to salaries, competition and status on the other". These are hard words, but true ones, and until we have mended this weakness our elaborate schemes and apparatus are so much machinery, without the vital spark to give them life and meaning. On the solution of these problems depends the entire future of South African librarianship.

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRESS, 1957-58¹

by

PHYLLIS M. SPEIGHT

Deputy City Librarian, Johannesburg

THIS SURVEY has been compiled from information supplied by the four Provincial libraries, and by most of the independent libraries in the Union; and the reports received present a picture of progress that is most encouraging. It is now twenty-one years since the Interdepartmental Committee issued its report, a document that drew a depressing picture of the state of South African libraries. To-day, the beneficent tentacles of the four Provincial libraries have reached even the smallest rural communities, while almost all the larger urban libraries have become free, democratic institutions.

Each of the four Provincial libraries has its individual approach, but the reports show that progress is along similar lines. Three of them (Cape, Natal and O.F.S.) have each started a monthly journal during the year, the primary purpose of which is to serve as an informal medium for the exchange of news and information between the central organization and the workers scattered in the field. Articles on administrative problems may be included, as well as reviews of new books, and lists of available books on special subjects. The two larger provinces (the Cape and the Transvaal) each held four training courses at different centres for the benefit of local librarians. All four libraries report an encouraging response to the talks, film shows, and picture exhibitions designed to give publicity in rural areas to the library service available.

The *Cape Provincial Library* has now established all the 18 regions required by the basic plan for covering its vast area. Some illuminating figures are given: 115 public libraries are now affiliated, while there are 160 depots for European readers and 105 for Non-Europeans. Issues have passed the two-million mark, and at the end of the year there were 1,257,027 books in stock. Circulation per reader averaged

31.9 books a year for Europeans, and 20.1 for the other group. Five hundred films were lent for showing at community gatherings, and there were thirteen exhibitions of art prints. When a town library affiliates, it must undertake to provide satisfactory accommodation, within the next five years; and the report lists the towns now in process of conforming to this requirement. Active steps are being taken for the erection of permanent Regional Library buildings, and of a large central headquarters, for which the sum of £465,000 has been provided. A further development is the completion of arrangements whereby schools can now affiliate to the Provincial service, which also undertakes to buy book for the schools' own permanent stock out of Education Department funds. Expenditure in the Cape Provincial Service this year amounted to £432,000, of which £191,000 was spent on "library materials".

Natal Provincial Library also reports progress; there are now 262 depots and affiliated libraries, and bookstock is growing fast. Book displays, talks, and film shows were arranged, and a catalogue of English plays in the stock of the Central Reference Library was issued.

The *Orange Free State Provincial Library Service* has reported that, with only two exceptions, every town in the Province now has a free library. This is a splendid achievement. A new library building was officially opened in Marquard, and at least four other towns are about to start building. The Province now has 324,170 books in stock, and its 48,526 members borrowed 1,095,255 books during the year.

The most notable development in the *Transvaal Provincial Library Service* was its

¹ This feature formerly appeared in the *Annual Report* of the Association. It is a survey, based on information supplied by the libraries mentioned, and not a review of their annual reports. - Ed.

extension to cover towns with a European population of up to 50,000. This means that, within the next five years, all the smaller towns along the Reef will be able to affiliate, provided that their local authorities are prepared to spend at least 7s. 6d. per head of the European population annually on library service. Authority has been given for the provision of three additional bookvans to cover the territory more efficiently, and also for the purchase of films, gramophone records and art prints. Some pictures have already been bought and processed. Additional posts have also been established, and the Service now has a staff of 99. In the Transvaal, affiliated libraries are encouraged to build up permanent collections of reference books, and to assist them in selection, a revised and enlarged edition of the "List of suggested reference books" was prepared by the Senior Librarian.

Let us turn now (in alphabetical order) to the urban libraries that responded to the request for a progress report. *Benoni* became a municipal library on the 1st January, 1958, and the staff have already benefited by becoming eligible to join the pension fund, and by having their salaries adjusted to municipal scales. Some of the routines have been modernized, and the Library is now ready to give the citizens an improved service. *Brakpan* reports the installation of special shelving for its fine arts books, the purchase of German, Italian and Dutch books for the immigrants now using the library, and the reduction in the deposit that children must pay from 5s. to 2s. 6d. This has caused the membership to treble. In *Cape Town*, the City Library opened a new branch at Bridgetown, and acquired new larger premises for three of its existing branches. Circulation reached the record figure of 2,327,755, and the staff now numbers 150. *Durban* Public Library opened its seventh depot library, and issued 1,369,412 books to its 79,702 registered readers. A remarkable increase was noted in the number of Non-European junior members, while building plans have been passed for a new library for the Coloured community at Sparks Estate. Durban also reports staff re-grading and re-organization, and a scheme to encourage its staff to qualify.

From *Germiston (Carnegie) Public Library* there comes a report that is bright for the future, though progress in the year under review was mainly at the planning stage. It is

hoped that there will be a new central building on the present site, and a branch library in the Northern suburbs, before the end of the next financial year. Like most other public libraries, Germiston experienced difficulty in recruiting and keeping staff, and to help overcome this problem, posts for Assistant Librarians were graded up. *Grahamstown*, one of the larger public libraries to become affiliated to the Cape Provincial Library, reports a greatly increased membership as a result of abolishing subscriptions, and has spent a busy year consolidating and improving its service. The *Johannesburg Public Library* opened its eleventh branch, on the 3rd March, 1958, in the suburb of Emmarentia. It is in rented premises, and 40,568 books were issued during the first four months. A new hospital library was also established when the large Southrand hospital asked for library service at the beginning of 1958. A library for the Indian community has been sanctioned, and was in process of being established in June 1958. The Hillbrow branch, which had outgrown its original quarters, was moved to larger, more convenient, rented premises in November 1957. A permanent home for Orange Grove branch was in process of building at the end of the year, to be ready for occupation in August 1958. During the year issues reached the record figure of 2,747,230. The work of the Photographic Branch showed a great increase, 9,000 prints being supplied during the year. On the bibliographic side, the "Index to South African Periodicals" was continued, and indexes to four books of South African interest were published. Progress was made with the indexing of the Cape Annexures, which has now been completed from 1854 to 1879.

The *Natal Society Library* is one of the few remaining subscription libraries in the Union, but progress towards free service was made when the age at which the annual subscription becomes payable was raised from 14 to 19 years. (Children have had free service since January 1957). The year's greatest achievement was the establishment of a branch for Non-Europeans in Longmarket Street; it opens for three hours daily and is staffed by a part-time assistant.

Port Elizabeth Public Library was enriched by two gifts during the year. The late Sir Edgar Walton bequeathed his books to the library; they comprise about 1,500 volumes, chiefly political, historical, travel and belles lettres.

The other gift was the Carnegie Corporation collection of books on American life and culture. Issues increased during the year, and internal administrative changes were made. The Port Elizabeth City Council has not yet decided whether or not to take over the Library and make it free. *Potchefstroom (Carnegie) Municipal Library* has become affiliated to the Transvaal Provincial Library, and as a result of the excellent books supplied, a great increase in circulation is reported, especially in the issue of non-fiction books (art, music, and literature particularly). Membership has also increased, and the Hospital Library controlled by the Municipal Library continues to be well patronized.

The *South African Library* in Cape Town has named the main Africana room in its new extension after the late Mr. A. C. G. Lloyd, librarian from 1909 to 1938, and first President of the S. A. Library Association. The building is not yet finished; it is planned to house the Grey, Dessinian, Africana and other rare-book collections, and special safeguards against fire are being installed. Work on the re-cataloguing of the Africana Collections continued, and is now almost completed. There were some notable acquisitions, including a set of 350 American books portraying contemporary American civilization, (which the Carnegie Corporation has given to many libraries in South Africa); a collection of books and documents on the poet John Keats, from the estate of the late Mr. T. Steele, and modern Dutch books generously presented by the Netherlands Government. Other acquisitions

included the MS "Minutes of a voyage to the Cape in 1830-31" by William Harrison, the "Private Journal on the wanderings of an old trooper" (at the Cape) in 1846-48, written by a grandson of the famous Mrs. Siddons, and two volumes containing outstanding photographs of Cape houses and gables from the Jardine Collection. Four numbers of the "Quarterly Bulletin" were published during the year, and in collaboration with the University of Cape Town Libraries, J. M. Orpen's "History of the Basutos of S. Africa" (1857) was reprinted in the Willem Hiddingh series.

In Pretoria, the *State Library's* most noteworthy activity was the establishment of a Netherlands-Flemish Collection, with the aid of a government grant of £500 per annum. The collection will be in charge of a senior librarian, as a special post has been created for this purpose. The nucleus, dating from the State Library's Republican days, is already in existence, and the collection will be available to other libraries on inter-library loan. It will be supplemented by a popular collection of Afrikaans, Dutch and Flemish books in the State Library's Lending Department. *Vereeniging Public Library* has enjoyed the benefits of Provincial library affiliation for the last two years, and has now received 10,860 books. The resultant financial saving has enabled Vereeniging to establish a travelling library for the use of residents in its ever-growing suburbs, and this service is proving most popular, especially with children. Increases have occurred both in circulation and membership figures.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION

Attention is drawn to an important amendment in the Regulations relating to the Transvaal Provincial Library Service. This appears as Administrator's Notice no. 556 of 13 August 1958. It makes provision for the libraries of urban areas with a European population of 50,000 to join the Provincial Service (instead of 25,000, as formerly), with consequential changes in other clauses of the Regulation.

BOOK PRESERVATION

The Libraries Division of UNESCO has published, as List 296 a select bibliography by W. J. Plumbe on "The storage and preservation of books, periodicals and newspapers in tropical climates". Mr. Plumbe is at present Librarian of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology in Zaria, Nigeria, and is a former contributor to *South African libraries*. His bibliography should be of considerable practical value to many librarians in Southern Africa.

SKOOLBIBLIOTEEKDIENSTE IN KAAPLAND

deur

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DIE MERKWAARDIGSTE ontwikkeling wat Suid-Afrika in na-oorlogse jare op biblioteekgebied ervaar het, het geskied waar hervorming en uitbreiding die nodigste was, nl. by die openbare biblioteek en by die skoolbiblioteek. Algemeen gesproke het die openbare biblioteek reeds veel verder as die skoolbiblioteek gevorder op die pad na 'n ideaal (hoe vloeibaar so 'n begrip in hierdie verband ookal mag blyk) van selfverwensliking. Baie redes kan hiervoor aangevoer word, maar die belangrikste daarvan skuil klaarblyklik in die feit dat die skoolbiblioteek, in teenstelling met die outonome openbare biblioteek, as instelling binne 'n instelling funksioneer en dat sy doelstellinge deur die beleid van die moederliggaam bepaal word. Die hedendaagse funksionele skoolbiblioteek het sy bestaansreg alleen daaraan te danke dat hy as instrument van die groter instelling 'n bepaalde en onmisbare onderwysfunksie vervul. Hy vorm 'n integrerende deel van die masjinerie van die onderwysliggaam, wat tereg kan eis dat dit volle beheer uitoefen oor alle aspekte van skoolbiblioteekdiens waarmee beleid, inisiatief en beplanning gemoeid is. Daar is eenvoudig geen regverdiging meer vir die verouderde skoolbiblioteek wat, onderskraag deur vaaggeformuleerde en veralgemeende biblioteek-idealisme, as openbare biblioteek-in-die-klein 'n taak verrig wat veel beter deur die openbare biblioteek self in sy eie arbeidsfeer gedoen kan word nie.

Hieruit volg dat die evolusie van die skoolbiblioteek wesenlik met die evolusie van die onderwys gepaard moet gaan. Getrou aan die besondere eise van ons tyd, is daar oral reeds aanduidings van 'n gisting in die onderwys ten einde tred te hou met die veranderende hedendaagse wêreld. By die formulering van nuwe skoolkursusse in al die provinsies val die klem in toenemende mate op selfwerksaamheid by die leerling. Daar heers algemene ontevreden-

heid oor die handboek- en dikteermetodes van die verlede. En in sy strewe om die volle mens op te lei, om die kind 'n wyer beeld van sy studeveld te bied en hom in staat te stel om feite en lewenswaarhede selfstandig na te vors, is die onderwys onherroeplik toegewys op die skoolbiblioteek as magtigste middel ter bevordering van daardie ideaal.

Dit sou egter baie naïef wees om in hierdie tekens 'n voorspel tot 'n verbysterende regsomkeer in onderwysbeleid en -administrasie te sien. Daarvoor is die onderwys as liggaam uiteraard te ortodoks, te onvergenoege nog oor sy pogings om die beste te put uit tradisionele stelsels met hul eie idealisme en uitdagings. Die eintlike vertraging in skoolbiblioteek-hervorming moet altyd in verband gebring word met die praktiese onvermoë van die onderwys om die pad deur sy leiers en beleidsbepalers aangedui meteens op alle vlakke te betree. Die skoolbiblioteek kan die evolusie in die onderwys help bespoedig, en lewer inderdaad reeds 'n belangrike bydrae in hierdie opsig, maar dit het nie die geleenthede en die ongebondenhede van die openbare biblioteek om sy leserspubliek direk en na eie goeddunke te lei langs nuwe waters nie. Dit mag nooit 'n "eie" paadjie volg nie.

Die uiterlike omstandighede waarvan die doeltreffende skoolbiblioteek afhanklik is, berus op vier faktore, nl. huisvesting, biblioteekmateriaal, organisasie en die onderwyser-biblioteekaris. In Kaapland het verskeie Departementele skole deur die jare heen op eie inisiatief biblioteekdienste probeer lewer wat sou beantwoord aan die doel van die hedendaagse funksionele skoolbiblioteek. Met uitsondering van die £-vir-£-stelsel vir die aankoop van boeke en tydskrifte, en 'n sporadiese verskaffing van biblioteeklokale en -ameublement, was daar weinig sprake van steun uit owerheidsweë. Tog het die belangstelling van

individuele onderwysers, skoolhoofde en inspekteurs toegeneem en was 'n algemene groei merkbaar. Die toetsplek was egter die individuele skool, waar belangstelling in die biblioteek dikwels gewyk het met die vertrek van geesdriftige en ywerige onderwysers. Met die oog op die gebrek aan voorligting, geldelike steun en koördinasie wat so 'n toestand ten gevolg gehad het, het belangstellendes in Kaapstad (hoofsaaklik lede van die S.A.B.V., S.A.O.U. en S.A.T.A.) gedurende die veertigerjare van tyd tot tyd versoë tot die Departement gerig om 'n volbloed-skoolbiblioteekdiens onder die beheer van 'n Organiseerder van Skoolbiblioteke daar te stel. Ook het die Biblioteekskool van die Universiteit van Kaapstad destyds by wyse van twee uiters geslaagde vakansiekursusse in skoolbiblioteekwese vir onderwysers uit alle dele van die land, probeer om die saak te bevorder. Die ywer wat aan die dag gelê is, is uiteindelik beloon in die skepping van 'n organiseerderspos en my aanstelling in daardie hoedanigheid met ingang 1 Januarie, 1956. Teen daardie tyd het die skoolbiblioteek natuurlik reeds in enkele oorsese lande vas in sy skoen gestaan, en het die nuwe benadering ook veel veld gewen in Suid-Afrika, met Transvaal op die voorpos. Daar was derhalwe veel te leer uit die pionierswerk en ervaring van andere op hierdie minder bekende gebied.

OPNAME

'n Ontslaglike taak het die Departement voor die oë gestaar. 2,400 skole, versprei oor 'n gebiedsoppervlakte groter as dié van die ander drie provinsies saam, met 'n leerlingtotaal van meer as 400,000, kon elk met reg aanspraak maak op 'n doeltreffende skoolbiblioteekdiens. Hierteenoor het slegs 'n geringe persentasie inrigtings beskik oor biblioteke wat in die mees elementêre behoeftes kon voorsien. As die laer skole, waar biblioteekdienste om verstaanbare redes die ergste verwaarloos is, buite rekening gelaat word, bly die prentjie ewe somber. Volgens 'n uitgebreide opname van 226 hoër en middelbare skole (75 per sent van die getal inrigtings wat vraelyste ontvang het) in 1957, blyk dit dat slegs een skool aan al die vereistes van 'n goeie skoolbiblioteek voldoen. Sowat 20 skole (9 per sent) beskik oor al die essensiële geriewe, met uitsondering van

die dienste van 'n opgeleide vol- of deeltydse onderwyser-biblioteekaris. 56 skole lewer 'n redelik bevredigende diens, maar word erg aan bande gelê deur faktore soos gebrekkige huisvesting en ameublement, ongebalanseerde boekerye en arbitrêre organisasie. Die grootste groep (112 skole, of sowat 50 per sent) bestaan uit inrigtings wat sonder sentrale biblioteeklokale moet klaarkom; die boekerye is in die algemeen verouderd, onaantreklik en hoofsaaklik op "lekkerlees" verhalende lektuur toegespits; verantwoordelikheid vir biblioteek-aangeleenthede word sporadies onder personeellede (gewoonlik taalonderwysers wat geen onderrig in skoolbiblioteekwese geniet het nie) verdeel. Die oorblywende 35 skole (16 persent) verbloem nie die feit dat hulle geen noemenswaardige diens lewer nie en skryf hul onverskilligheid toe aan die oormag van struikelblokke wat in die weg van 'n goeie diens gelê word.

Die probleem word verskerp deur die feit dat die Departement hom reeds by wyse van die onlangse instelling van nuwe junior sekondêre kursusse gebind het tot 'n progressiewe stap in die onderwys waarmee die biblioteek primêr gemoeid is.

HUIDIGE PROGRAM

Daar is besluit om voorlopig alle kragte op die hoër en middelbare skool toe te spits, omdat die Departement in die eerste plek uit geldelike en organisatoriese oorwegings êrens 'n streep moes trek, en in die tweede plek wou begin waar die nood op sy hoogste was. Met die oog hierop word biblioteeklokale van 32' x 24' met al die nodige ameublement sedert 1954 gratis aan alle Departementele hoër en middelbare skole verskaf. Die standaardplan, soos gewysig in Desember, 1956, maak voorsiening vir die volgende items: verstelbare rakke teen die mure vir sowat 4,000 boeke; tafels en stoele vir 40 leerlinge; 'n goedingerigte uitleentoonbank; ruim pakplek vir die onderwyser-biblioteekaris; 'n gekombineerde koerant- en tydskrifrak; 'n liasseerkabinet met vier laaie vir die prent- en pamfletversamelings; 'n naslaanboekrak; 'n kataloguskabinet vir 15,000 kaartjies. Soos te begrype is, kan hierdie geriewe nie oornag aangebring word nie. Die Departement volg 'n bepaalde bouprogram en, indien die huidige finansiële posisie van die

Provinsie voortduur, behoort die ontsaglike agterstand binne tien jaar ingehaal te wees.

Voorts het die Departement sedert April 1957 sy £-vir-£-stelsel vir die aankoop van biblioteekboeke, wat in die boekjaar eindigende 31 Maart 1957 £23,400 beloop het, aangevul met twee nuwe skemas:

1. 'n Basiese naslaanversameling ter waarde van £200 word jaarliks geskenk aan 40 hoër en middelbare skole wat na gelang van behoefte en aanwendingsvermoë uitgesoek word. Die versameling word deur skole self gekies uit 'n geslote lys van parate naslaanwerke deur die Organiseerder van Skoolbiblioteke opgestel.
2. Aan alle hoër en middelbare skole wat nie in 'n betrokke jaar die basiese naslaanversameling ontvang nie, asook aan sekere laer skole, word 'n jaarlikse toewysing van £10 per skool plus 1s. 9d. per sekondêre en 1s. 6d. per primêre leerling geskenk. Daar word van skole verwag om hul boeke te kies uit lyste wat deur die Departement uitgereik word. Deur die goedgeunstige samewerking van die Biblioteekdiens van die Transvaalse Onderwysdepartement is daar voorlopig van die T.O.D.-Boekegids gebruik gemaak. Maatreëls word getref om skole positiewe leiding in die verband te gee, en onder andere te verseker dat daar 'n goeie verhouding tussens vak- en verhalende lektuur aan die een kant, en tussen Afrikaanse en Engelse lektuur aan die ander, binne elke skool sal bestaan. Dit is uiters wenslik dat die Departement sy eie boekkeuringsdiens moet hê.

Alle boeke wat ingevolge bogenoemde twee skemas aan skole verskaf word, word deur bemiddeling van die Kaaplandse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens sentraal aangekoop. Daar word vertrou dat die diens, wat tans 'n jaarlikse uitgawe van £21,000 meebring, mettertyd ook na alle laer skole uitgebrei sal kan word.

Hierbenewens sal skole volgens 'n nuwe bedeling ook in die nabye toekoms geregistreerde lede van die Kaaplandse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens kan word en langs hierdie weg toegang tot sy biblioteekmateriaal verkry. 'n Bedrag van £50,000 is in die afgelope boekjaar vir hierdie doel gestem. Daar is tot dusver nog nie 'n bevredigende grondslag van samewerking gevind in die ooreenkoms tussen die Departement

en die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens waarop hierdie skema berus nie.

Ook is daar nog geen stappe gedoen om skole vanuit 'n sentrale punt met interne organisasie behulpzaam te wees nie. Hoewel sterk pleidooie gelewer is vir die daarstelling van 'n gesentraliseerde katalogiseringstelsel vir skoolbiblioteke onder beheer van die Organiseerder, was die Departement nog nie bereid om dit in hierdie stadium te onderneem nie. Die instelling van so'n diens sal hopelik nie baie lank agterweë bly nie.

DIE ONDERWYSER-BIBLIOTEKARIS

Die onderwyser-biblioteekaris is vanselfsprekend 'n sleutelfaktor by die funksionering van die skoolbiblioteek. Die opname waarna vroeër in die artikel verwys is, het opnuut getoon dat 'n skoolbiblioteek volkome aan sy doel kan beantwoord slegs wanneer hy benewens al die noodsaaklike geriewe oor die voltydse dienste van 'n opgeleide onderwyser-biblioteekaris beskik. Terselfdertyd skakel 'n sameloop van vele omstandighede die moontlikheid uit dat sodanige betrekking in die afsienbare toekoms by enige skool geskep sal word. Die ideaal om voltydse onderwyser-biblioteekarisse aan ons skole te hê, kan ook maar net stapsgewyse bereik word. Die eerste stap in daardie rigting is om een onderwyser by elke skool af te sonder vir opleiding in skoolbiblioteekwese en verantwoordelikheid vir administrasie en pligsverdeling by sy individuele skoolbiblioteek. Met die oog hierop is die Departement gretig om gereelde indienskursusse vir diensdoende onderwysers aan te bied. Drie sodanige kursusse, bygewoon deur 'n totaal van 93 blanke en 8 kleurlingonderwysers, is gedurende die afgelope 18 maande in Kaapstad en Stellenbosch gehou. Die jongste hiervan is met die gewaardeerde samewerking van die personeel van die biblioteek van die Universiteit van Kaapstad in Februarie vanjaar gereël en het veel geesdrif uitgelok by die 73 onderwysers en skoolhoofde wat dit bygewoon het. Die leemtes en tekortkominge van hierdie kort kursusse word maar te goed beseef, maar daar is reeds bewyse dat die saad in verskeie gevalle op goeie grond geval het. Daar word vertrou dat die reklame wat die skoolbiblioteek op hierdie wyse verkry daartoe sal lei dat skoolhoofde bereid sal wees

om mettertyd meer en meer suiwer biblioteek-lesure vir die verantwoordelike onderwyser-biblioteekaris op die rooster in te ruim, en dat so 'n stap op sy beurt die weg sal berei na die skepping van voltydse biblioteekbetrekkings aan ons grootste skole.

Die tyd het nou aangebreek dat koppige verset teen die beginsel van die funksionele skoolbiblioteek in die hedendaagse onderwysprogram allerweë begin plek maak vir nadenke en simpatieke oorweging onder onderwysleiers. Tog sal die skoolbiblioteek waarskynlik nog lank besig wees met die veeleisende taak om die onderwys op alle vlakke van sy bestaansreg en van die aard van sy behoeftes

in die onderwysmasjien te oortuig. In sy nood keer die skoolbiblioteek hom graag tot diegene wat sy belange werklik op die hart dra, uit elk van die twee beroepe wat in hom verenig word. In dankbare erkentlikheid ontvang hy graag die mate van simpatieke steun waartoe die biblioteekberoep in staat is. Maar terselfdertyd kom hy in onwrikbare verset teen enige poging aan die kant van die beroep om hom goedsmoeds en in groot onkunde te probeer absorbeer in 'n algemene openbare biblioteekbeweging. Tereg vra hy dat hy aanvaar word as 'n spesiale inrigtingsbiblioteek met sy eie unieke kenmerke en 'n selfbeskikkingsreg binne die raamwerk van sy moederliggaam, die onderwysberoep.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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Articles of approx. 2,500 words in length and written in either English or Afrikaans, on any matter relating to libraries and librarianship, are cordially invited by the Hon. Editor.

Notes and news about library activities and developments, new buildings, notable gifts, new techniques, library extension and audio-visual work,

staff appointments, etc., will be welcomed.

Newspaper cuttings should be clearly marked with the name and date of the source.

Contributions which have appeared elsewhere should be marked accordingly, with an indication that permission to reprint has been granted.

The Association accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed in the journal by its contributors.

Copy must reach the Editor at least two months before the month of publication, viz., 1st May for the July number, 1st August for the October number, 1st November for the January number, and 1st February for the April number.

Contributors are asked to note that manuscripts should be typed in double spacing with ample margins, preferably on one side of quarto paper (10 inches by 8). Manuscripts should be carefully revised before being submitted, as corrections in type are expensive.

Books and publications of library interest, including annual reports, booklists and publicity material, are welcomed for review purposes. After being reviewed they are added to the Association's professional library at Box 397, Pretoria.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PROGRESS¹

JULY 1957 – JUNE 1958

by

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DURING the 1958 conference of the South African Library Association attention will be focussed on two major issues of librarianship in South Africa to-day, namely, the question of the education of librarians and that of library co-operation. In both these problems University libraries are not only deeply interested but also vitally involved. In the first case, because as many as six South African universities now offer educational facilities for librarians; in the second, because these libraries, which possess on the whole the best facilities and collections for study and research purposes in Southern Africa and which are so rapidly growing, should through some organization pool their resources, so that they can become that real asset to the country as a whole which they should really be.

EDUCATION FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

Further advances in the education of librarians were made at the beginning of 1958 when two more universities inaugurated departments for education in library science, apart from the training offered by the South African Library Association. Although it was always optimistically hoped that the shortage of trained library personnel would be effectively combatted by a greater number of centres offering courses in library training, this at present hardly seems to be the case, for two obvious reasons. One, too few men students are following the courses, and two, the great variety of newly established library posts are

still in excess of the number of students qualifying each year.

The *University of the Witwatersrand* established a *Department of Library Science* at the beginning of 1958 offering a one-year post-graduate professional course leading to the University Diploma in Librarianship. The course prepares students for work in all types of libraries, but special attention is paid to the needs of scientific and technical libraries. The University Librarian, Miss Elizabeth Hartmann, is head of the Department and Miss Hazel Mews has been appointed full-time senior lecturer. Members of the staffs of the University Library and the Johannesburg Public Library assist in the Department on a part-time basis.

At the beginning of 1958 the newly established Department of Library Science of the *University of Stellenbosch* could start with eight students taking the post-graduate diploma course. Mr. J. G. Kesting was appointed senior lecturer and head of the Department. He is assisted on a part-time basis by members of the staff of the University Library. Apart from the Higher Diploma, a Lower Diploma is also offered which can be taken over two years, with the first year devoted to five first year academic subjects and the second to the professional subjects.

Since 1955 the *University of South Africa* has offered a Diploma in Library Science, a

¹ Although this report deals only with the South African University library scene, the Library of the *University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, is also included to complete the picture for Southern Africa.

Higher Diploma in Library Science, and the following degrees in library science: B.A. (Hons.) & M.A. in Library Science and Bibliography, and a D.Phil. et Litt. The Diploma can be taken over two years comprising two courses in Library Science and Bibliography, three modern languages (English and Afrikaans being compulsory) and three courses to be chosen from the study courses prescribed for the B.A. degree, of which one must be on a second year B.A. basis. The Higher Diploma follows on the above and requires a further two years study leading to a B.A. degree with Bibliography as a major subject together with an additional modern language. The Higher Diploma is granted simultaneously with the degree. For the B.A. Hons. in Library Science and Bibliography the Higher Diploma is a prerequisite and the course is covered by two years study. The M.A. in Library Science and Bibliography requires a thesis on some library science or bibliographical topic and follows on the B.A. Hons. After specialisation, a dissertation may be handed in for the D.Phil. et Litt. degree. At the end of 1957 six candidates qualified for the Diploma and two for the Higher Diploma.

At its last meeting the Council of the S.A.L.A. agreed on the recommendation of its Education Committee to acknowledge the Lower University Diploma in Library Science of the *Potchefstroom University for C.H.E.* as of the same standing as its own Intermediate Certificate thus permitting candidates in possession of the Lower Diploma and the necessary experience to apply for the Associateship of the S.A.L.A. At the end of 1957, 13 candidates (5 men, 8 women) obtained the University Diploma in Library Science while two women qualified for the Lower Diploma.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

While the library world has newly awakened to better and more effective methods of co-operation both national and international, it is essential to learn of the existence as well as of the creation of special collections, for it is by this knowledge that we learn to avoid, *inter alia*, the duplication of valuable and especially lesser used material. But to learn of the existence and establishment of special collections,

however small they may be, surveys should be regularly undertaken by some national body.

In anticipation of the birth of a larger scheme of library co-operation in South Africa in which it is necessary that the university libraries should figure, it is essential for the universities to begin on their own, being better organized as a group than the public and other special libraries of this country. It seems that too much is said and written about this matter, and far too little done, and that the university libraries should take the lead with a scheme which could fit into the pattern of larger national and international schemes if necessary.

The argument that South African university libraries are not ready to participate in schemes of co-operation on the grounds of their being as yet too small, or too busy building their own collections, falls away if the growth of the South African university library over the past twenty years is considered. In the *Interdepartmental Committee Report*¹ of 1937 only two university libraries were reported of possessing more than 100,000 volumes while to-day there are only two with collections of less than 100,000 items.²

It is under such circumstances that the establishment of a *Norman Feldman Memorial Collection* of books on paediatrics in the Medical Library of the *University of the Witwatersrand* becomes a noteworthy event.

At this same Library a start has also been made with the building up of a collection of medical books of historical interest. Several valuable items have already been acquired, including a 1529 edition of Galen's *Aliquot libelli per Guinterium Joannem Andernacum*. (A similar collection was started some years ago at the Medical Library of the *University of Cape Town*).

The Library of the *University of Cape Town* reports that its *Manuscripts and University Archives Collections* has been growing steadily in quantity over the past ten years. Steps have

¹ *Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Libraries of the Union of South Africa, 1937* Cape Town, Cape Times Limited, 1937, p. 7-8.

² The *Potchefstroom University Library* now possesses 115,677 items, of which 90,966 are books, after it was destroyed by fire on 23rd February, 1949.

The *Library of Rhodes University* will probably pass this mark during this year.

The *University of Pretoria* reports that their collection, which reached the 100,000 mark in 1943, now contains more than 300,000 items.

now been taken to organize a new department of the Library, that of Manuscripts and Archives. The calendaring and indexing of this material is now proceeding, and useful research material is becoming more accessible. Funds were contributed by several interested persons to enable the Library to acquire manuscripts in particular categories.

The *University of South Africa* has wisely decided not to build a general Africana collection in view of the many excellent collections already in existence in Pretoria and Johannesburg. Instead they have embarked on the collecting of German Africana, resulting from several donations previously made in this connection.

But to further this idea of co-operation it is necessary that catalogues of such special collections and of special materials be made available by the university libraries, for only by so doing can co-operation in, e.g., book purchases, be brought to its logical conclusions.

DONATIONS

Whether during the past five or more decades the annual number of donations made to university libraries in South Africa has increased or decreased is very difficult to determine, owing to the great fluctuations of gifts to individual libraries. It seems, however, judged from the reports, not only true of university but also of public libraries, that the number of gifts made is rapidly increasing. This fact seems to point not only towards a greater interest displayed in our libraries, but also towards better facilities offered by libraries in using, housing, protecting and especially in organizing book collections.

The following may perhaps be called representative of the donations made to the university libraries during the period under review, but is by no means a complete list. Space allows the mention of only a few of the more important gifts.

The widow of the great Afrikaans author, the late Prof. C. M. van den Heever, presented a collection of some 700 items from the private library of Prof. van den Heever to the Library of the *University of the Witwatersrand*. The collection consists mainly of books on Afrikaans & Dutch Literature.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York generously presented 32 South African libraries each with 350 books "to portray contemporary American life and to explain its origins". All the South African university libraries were included.

At two of the South African universities, namely, the *University of the Witwatersrand* and the *University of Pretoria*, special Chairs in Dutch and Afrikaans cultural history are in existence. At the *University of Pretoria* a *Nederlandse Cultuur-historische Instituut* has in addition been established. This interest in Dutch culture and learning, shared also by some of the other universities, has now benefitted by a donation from the Government of the Netherlands to each of the South African universities. This is the first of a series of similar gifts which it is the intention of the Government to make at regular intervals to each of the South African universities.

The newly-established *Department of Education of the University of the Witwatersrand* has received a donation of £500 from the *Council of Education* for the nucleus of a library collection.

To the Library of the *University of Pretoria* a replica of the Rosetta Stone has been presented.

Sir Stephen Courtauld of Umtali presented to the *University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland* a copy of the first printed edition of Censorinus' *De die natali*, together with other tracts printed by Benedictus Hectoris at Bologna in 1497.

Mrs. F. A. E. Powell again presented a substantial amount towards the development of the *Powell Collection* in the Library of the *University of Natal* reported in a previous survey.¹ £500 of the £800 is to be used for this purpose, while for the remaining £300, literature on the economic history of Europe and Britain is to be purchased.

The *University of the Orange Free State* received a collection of some 700 volumes bequeathed by the former Minister of Education, Arts and Sciences, the late Mr. J. H. Viljoen, containing several valuable Africana items. This Library also received the private collection of the well-known Dr. J. D. Kestell, minister to the Boer forces during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), former Rector of the University of the Orange Free State and translator of the

¹ S.A.L., 24(2) p. 45, Oct. 1956.

Bible into the Afrikaans language. It is only to be hoped that this collection will be preserved as an entity, and that a catalogue of the contents will be published in due course. For the study of the translation of the Bible into Afrikaans this could eventually be of great value.

In November 1957 the *University of Cape Town* was able, largely through a generous grant of £350 from the *Cape Tercentenary Foundation*, to acquire the *Bowle-Evans Collection*. This Collection, comprising some 420 volumes, mostly 17th and 18th century publications, originally belonged to Rev. John Bowle (1725-1788), a noted Spanish scholar of his day. His descendants added to it. Included are several letterbooks and manuscripts including correspondence between the founder and Horace Walpole, Thomas Percy and other well-known 18th century figures. Many of the books in the Collection are well bound editions of classic works. The Collection represents an "English Gentleman's library" of the period 1770-1850.

This University also received a substantial gift of 600 items of Africana from Miss K. Woldmann of Dornach in Switzerland. These include 40 holograph letters of Dorothea Bleek to the donor; over 200 drawings and water-colour sketches of Bushmen paintings copied by Miss Woldmann from originals in various parts of South Africa during 1907-1910, many lantern slides on the Bushmen, with manuscript commentaries, pamphlets and reprints on Bushmen, and miscellaneous material relating to publications by the Bleek family.

The late Mr. Hugh Solomon of Johannesburg bequeathed his valuable Africana Collection to the *University of Stellenbosch* where it was received at the beginning of 1958.

The *Ferdinand Postma Library* of the *Potchefstroom University for C.H.E.* received a fairly complete set of bluebooks of the Cape Colony for the period 1854-1910 from the State Archivist.

SPECIAL PURCHASES

From the wide range of valuable sets and books acquired by university libraries it is hard to make a selection. The items included are mentioned because of the interest they may have for other libraries, the choice being as

representative as possible of the types of materials acquired.

The *Merensky Library* of the *University of Pretoria* has acquired a complete set of the *Zeitschrift für Keilschriftforschung und anverwandte Gebiete*. This is probably the only set of this periodical in South Africa, and by acquisitions such as this, our country is fast moving towards independence for study purposes. This need is especially felt during times of war when the country is dependent upon its own resources.

The Library of the *University of Stellenbosch* recently received Lubarsch, Jenke and Rossle's *Handbuch der speziellen pathologischen Anatomie und Histologie*, 1924-1959 and Buchler, Letterer and Roulet's *Handbuch der allgemeinen Pathologie*.

Apart from the purchase of complete sets of the works of composers such as Vivaldi, Telemann, and others, the collection of bibliographical items of the *Ferdinand Postma Library* of the *Potchefstroom University for C.H.E.* was further strengthened by such works as Graesse's *Trésor des livres rares et précieux* and the *Library of Congress Catalog of Books: Subjects*, 1950-1954. Mention is also made of the purchase of complete sets of the *Loeb Classical Library* and of the official records of the following U.N.O. bodies: *General Assembly*, *Trusteeship Council*, *Economic and Social Council*, *Security Council*, *Disarmament Commission* and the *Atomic Energy Commission*.

During the first ten years of its present development the Library of the *University of South Africa* served as a lending library for students who wished to obtain the necessary textbooks by post. This resulted in the purchasing of several copies of single titles based purely on demand. As an example of the results of such a policy the Librarian reports that in 1947, out of some 6,000 books only 140 titles could be indicated. With the recent change in policy, namely, to build a proper university library while the purchase of textbooks is left to the students themselves, much valuable scholarly material has been purchased. This includes facsimiles of manuscripts of such Greek and Latin authors as Homer, Terentius, and Vergilius, Rodenwaldt's *Die Kunst der Antike* (16 volumes) Cabrol's *Dictionnaire d'Archéologie Chrétienne et de Liturgie* (30 vols.), the policy being not to duplicate if any such material already exists in some other South African Library.

ACCOMMODATION

Although our University Libraries are small compared to European University libraries, they are growing fast. It is calculated that the average South African University Library today doubles its collection within a period of approximately 10 years.¹ To cope with this exceptional growth frequent extension to existing buildings or the erection of new ones is a common occurrence.

The *Merensky Library* of the *University of Pretoria* for many years badly needed an extension to its library building, which not only became too small to accommodate the fast growing collection, but was most unsatisfactorily planned as a library by the original architect. This fact is borne out to the full by the use made of the new extension opened during the Conference of the South African Library Association at Pretoria in September 1957 – which then virtually became the new library. The older building is now being used for the housing of special collections, as a very large "leisure" room – the former reading room – and for magazines. The capacity of the Library has been increased from c. 220,000 volumes to c. 425,000. The old building provided seating accommodation for 120 readers, while the library to-day can seat 550 users. This has been accomplished by the use of subject reading rooms, of which there are 15. For administrative and bindery purposes generous provision has been made.

The *University of Pretoria* conducts extra-mural classes on a very extensive scale. For this purpose a new building which will house the extra-mural library, is now being erected in the centre of the city. This library will be called the *Macfadyen Library*.

Plans for a library building at the *University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland* have already been finalised and construction is expected to begin shortly. The proposed building will accommodate 350,000 volumes and provision is made to seat 500 readers. The new library will also house a bindery and a photographic studio.

¹ After destruction of its entire collection by fire on 23 February 1949, the *Potchefstroom University for C.H.E.* rebuilt its collections within nine years to the 100,000 mark. Extensions to its new Library, opened in May 1952, are already being seriously considered.

At *Rhodes University*, where as at the library of the *University of Natal*, accommodation is as badly needed for its rapidly increasing collection, a site has already been acquired for the erection of a library building, and provisional plans for the proposed modular library building are already being considered. It is hoped that construction work will begin early in 1959.

The Library of the *University of the Orange Free State* was originally planned in such a way that the whole building could be doubled when needed by the addition of another storey. The University Council has now decided to complete the building.

The erection of a temporary library will begin shortly at the *Karl Bremer Hospital*, Bellville to house the library of the *Faculty of Medicine* of the *University of Stellenbosch* until the new Library of the *School of Medicine* is completed.

At the *University College of Fort Hare* a temporary building has had to be fitted up for a library. Until the proposed new building can be erected this is the best temporary accommodation that can be found for the fast growing collection.

On Friday the 27th of June 1958 the foundation stone of the new library building of the *University of South Africa* was laid. This building differs from other University library buildings in Southern Africa in that it serves a double purpose, namely, accommodation for the library on the one hand and the university staff on the other. This arises as the result of the University conducting its courses by correspondence. It is hoped that their new building will provide accommodation for at least eight years to come.

BINDERIES

The library bindery of the *University of Natal*, set up in 1956 on a provisional basis, has now been placed on a permanent footing by the University Council while the Universities of the *Witwatersrand* and *South Africa* are investigating the installation of a library bindery.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

The lack of accommodation for photographic services seems to be the main obstacle in the establishment of such services at the universities

which do not yet possess them. In the new library buildings to be erected provision is generally made for such services, e.g., at Rhodes University and at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The need for fast copying methods such as afforded by some photographic and semi-photographic processes as well as the many books and periodicals borrowed by most of the universities from South African and overseas libraries, reflects the inadequacy of the average South African university library collection. In view of the fast growing collections, however, it is a matter of opinion whether large photographic departments established by some university libraries will not become to some extent superfluous, depending for their further existence on photographic duplication of a kind other than the duplication of literature for research purposes. In such cases the service falls rather beyond the scope of the library and should perhaps be completely divorced from the library, which would draw on its resources only when necessary.

On the other hand it is possibly the complications of new and ever changing photographic apparatus and processes which cause many librarians to be wary of the establishment of such services.

At the University of Cape Town a new development in a "near-printing" process has been introduced. This involves the use of photolitho-offset techniques. By a combination of a typescript suitable for reproduction, and line- and half-tone blocks made by the department, a number of publications were produced during the year.

The Library of the University of Stellenbosch is busy testing a photo-duplicating apparatus which will be used mainly for inter-library loans, while the University of South Africa is experimenting with a xerograph machine to test its possibilities for the university library.

REORGANIZATION

Although most of the university libraries report progress in their reorganization programmes, the lack of trained personnel and especially the lack in continuity owing to frequent resignations, still seriously hamper progress.

An enormous task was begun some years ago by the University of Stellenbosch when a start was made with reclassification from the *Library of Congress Classification* to the *Decimal Classification* of Melvil Dewey. For the reasons mentioned above this work is progressing very slowly.

In previous reports mention was made of the reclassification and the recataloguing of the entire collection of the Potchefstroom University Library and the compilation of an Afrikaans dictionary catalogue. This implied the building of an Afrikaans subject-heading list, as none exists at present. This list has now been completed for Mathematics, Fine Arts and Library Science, while the list for general bibliographical reference works is almost ready.

With the change in policy at the Library of the University of South Africa, when emphasis shifted from the lending of textbooks to students to the building of a proper university library collection, it became necessary to catalogue the whole collection fully, as this had previously been entirely neglected. Thus the cataloguing division was established during 1957 with 4 staff members. During 1958 this number was increased to seven.

PUBLICATIONS

A new edition of the *University of the Witwatersrand's List of Periodicals and other serial publications currently received* has been published. It is being supplemented and kept up to date in their *Quarterly list of recent accessions*.

The Library of the University of Cape Town has added six more student bibliographies to its *Bibliographical Series of the School of Librarianship* and the following title has been added to the *Willem Hiddingh Series: Festschrift zum fünfzigjährigen Siedelungsjubiläum der Deutschen in Kaffraria*.

Work on the *List of Theses and Dissertations of the University of South Africa, 1919-1957* has now been completed and it is hoped that the *List* will be published during 1958. The manuscript of the *Union Catalogue of Theses and Dissertations of the South African Universities, 1942-1957* is in the hands of the publishers and it will probably appear before the end of this year.

PERSONALIA

Miss Y. Bjerre, holder of the Danish Diploma in Librarianship, who had a year's leave from her Library at Aalsborg to gain experience overseas, spent eight months on the staff of the Library of the *University of the Witwatersrand*. This Library lost a valuable member of staff by the death of Dr. Helen Ypsilanti.

As reported elsewhere Miss Hazel Mews, for a number of years Head of the Library and Information Division of the *Council for Scientific and Industrial Research*, which service and library were both inaugurated and firmly established by her, became senior lecturer in

the *Department of Library Science* of the *University of the Witwatersrand* at the beginning of 1958.

Mrs. B. H. Robinow, assistant-in-charge of the *Medical Library* of the *University of Natal*, was awarded a study and travel fellowship by the American Medical Library Association, and she spent six months in the United States visiting medical libraries.

Mr. J. G. Kesting, formerly Organiser of school libraries in the Cape Province, was appointed senior lecturer and head of the *Department of Library Science* of the *University of Stellenbosch* at the beginning of 1958.

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PROVINSIALE BIBLIOTEEKDIENSTE, 1957

deur

D. L. EHLERS

(a) Vergelykende statistiek vir die jaar 1957

	Kaap	O.V.S.	Natal	Tranvaal
Aanvang van diens	1951	1950	1952	1945
Aantal streke	18	3	3	8
Boekevoorraad	1,207,000	306,419	351,024	932,792
Aantal openbare biblioteke	85	68	31	80
Aantal depots	232	119	258	460
Sirkulasie van boeke	2,142,857	1,095,255	1,315,024	2,902,288
Ledetal	71,419	48,526	52,378	115,263
Plattelandse blanke bevolking	684,925	192,418	110,213	467,956
(1951-sensus)				

(b) Algemene Opmerkings

Die Kaapse syfers sluit die diens aan Nie-Blankes wat van al die provinsiale dienste die uitgebreidste is, in. Daar was nie minder as 90 dienspunte vir hierdie bevolkingsgroep nie. Natal het diens verskaf aan 16 nie-blanke sentrums met 3,023 lede. Die boekevoorraad (wat nie by bostaande syfers ingesluit is nie) was 14,441 en die boekesirkulasie 21,611.

In die Transvaal is vir die eerste keer drie dorpe wat in die bevolkingsgroep 10,000-25,000 val, bedien en 'n hospitaaldiens is in Pretoria begin.

Wat die diens aan skole betref, is daar interessante ontwikkelings aan die gang. Terwyl die Transvaal in die loop van die jaar 68 van sy skooldepots gesluit het in oorleg met die Provinsie se onderwysdepartement, het Natal 100 nuwe skooldepots bygeneem. In Kaapland is dit ook die plan dat die biblioteekdiens boeke aan skole sal verskaf.

Net soos die Kaap, het die Transvaal ook begin met die aankoop van kunsafdrukke. 'n Interessante mededeling is dat die diens steeds goeie kunsafdrukke van die Nasionale Biblioteek van Peking ontvang. 'n Film, „Boeke vir almal” is deur die Filmafdeling van die Departement van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap met medewerking van die Transvaalse Provinsiale Biblioteek en openbare biblioteke in die provinsie, voltooi.

Die Transvaal het ook op die pragtige gedagte gekom om sy nuwe streekbiblioteke na bekende Afrikaanse skrywers te vernoem. Ek vind dit uitstekend en wil aan die hand doen dat hierdie gebruik ook uitgebrei word na nuwe openbare biblioteekgeboue. Ons het reeds in die Kaap die sierlike nuwe Leipoldt-Nortier-biblioteek op Clanwilliam. In hierdie gebou is daar 'n vertrek waarin meubels en gedenkwaardighede van Dr. Leipoldt bewaar word. Dit kan ook in ander biblioteke gedoen word. Hoe mooi sal dit nie wees om ons kunstenaars op dié wyse oor die lengte en breedte van ons land in herinnering te hou nie?

Terwyl ek nou in hierdie trant skryf, kry ek nog 'n ingewing. Bibliotekarisse meen miskien soms dat as hulle behalwe boeke ook grammofoonplate, films en kunsafdrukke verskaf hulle nou werklik kwalitatiewe kultuurdienste verrig. Dit is alles goed en wel, maar ons moet nie vergeet nie dat hierdie dinge eintlik *ersatz* is, neweprodukte van kultuurskeppende kunstenaars. Hoe sal dit wees as daar oorspronklike werke van Suid-Afrikaanse skilders en beeldhouers geleidelik aangekoop word? Sulke kunstenaars kan ook uitgenooi word om in die nuwe geboue, veral op die platteland, uitstallings van hulle werke te hou. Ek is daar seker van dat hulle sulke geleenthede sal verwelkom. Net so kan kamerkonsertgroepe en

voordragkunstenars ook uitvoerings op die platteland gee.*

Een saak is egter baie belangrik en dit is dat in alle pogings om lewende kultuur na die plattelandse gemeenskappe te bring nie bloot van bo en van buite af georganiseer behoort te word nie. Plaaslike liggame en verenigings moet erken word en hulle medewerking moet

verkry word – nog beter, laat sulke liggame self die plaaslike reëls tref. Plaaslike talent moet ook ruim geleentheid gegee word om te ontwikkel in toneelopvoerings, koorsang ens.

Op hierdie wyse meen ek, kan die openbare biblioteek langsamerhand in elke gemeenskap in ons land groei tot 'n ware, lewende kultuursentrum.

* 'n Tentoonstelling van oorspronklike Suid-Afrikaanse kunswerke is onlangs deur die Kaaplandse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens vir gebruik in die streke opgebou - Redakteur.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ACHIEVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, 1956-58

by

D. H. VARLEY

Chief Librarian, South African Library

AT THE Bloemfontein Conference of the S.A. Library Association held in September 1954, two papers were read on the bibliographical services and potentialities in South Africa.¹ Since then, accounts of South African bibliographical progress have appeared in the surveys issued annually by the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography,² but no account has appeared recently in our own library journal. The present article is an attempt to fill this gap in respect of the period 1 July 1956 to 30 June 1958, and is based on a questionnaire sent to the most important public and research libraries and systems and to all the university libraries in the country.

It will be recalled that as long ago as 1949 a standing sub-committee was appointed by the Conference of the S.A. Library Association with the aim, firstly, of drafting a report for the International Congress on Librarianship and Bibliography which was held in Paris at the end of 1950, and secondly, to record the progress of bibliographical projects within Southern Africa, and to study and encourage the working out of new projects.³ A third function of this sub-committee, which became the Bibliographical Committee in 1954, has been to act as a direct liaison with the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, and, as already stated, to submit reports annually to that Committee on South African progress.

This Bibliographical Committee or "working group" is still in existence, but its activities, for a number of reasons, have come to be limited, for practical purposes, to the third of the functions just stated. It has no funds of its own, the Secretary (Miss J. C. Mandelbrote) left the Union permanently some months ago⁴ and, in short, it is probable that the Committee has outlived its usefulness in its present form. This is all the more reason why its membership should now be broadened, in close collaboration with the continuation committees (or embryo Sections) of the two main groups into which our Annual Conference now usually divides for purposes of discussion: the universities and research libraries section, and the public and provincial libraries section. In this way, it is suggested, the group can continue to carry out its original functions, but in closer and more lively touch with the different branches of the profession.

UNION CATALOGUES AND LISTS

As the book resources of the country's libraries expand, and their use for research and information purposes rapidly increases, the need for a full record of their content and availability, and for effective means of interloan, becomes increasingly urgent. As Mr. S. I. Malan remarks elsewhere in this issue, a great deal of talking goes on about the desirability of union catalogues, whether national, Provincial, regional or local, but comparatively little of a practical nature gets done. It may be useful, therefore, to survey the present position.

¹ D. H. Varley & O. H. Spohr. Some proposals for the development of national bibliographical services for South Africa (*S.A.L.*, 22(3), 79-88, Jan. 1955).

² e.g., *Bibliographical services throughout the world. Fourth annual report, 1954-55*, by R. L. Collison. Paris Unesco, 1957.

³ D. H. Varley, 'The progress of bibliographical services in South Africa' (*S.A.L.*, 21(4), 118-20 April 1954).

(i) *National union catalogue of books*

This was initiated some years ago by the State Library, Pretoria, and most libraries in the country now send records of their accessions to this Library for interfiling in the union catalogue. For financial and other reasons, however, the catalogue is by no means complete, and no advantage has yet been taken of well-known photographic techniques for reducing the labour and cost of making it a fully effective tool through the inclusion of older stocks, hitherto unrecorded. Requests for books not located in the union catalogue have to be "advertised" among the larger libraries by circular, and this often leads to delays in our country of still wide open spaces.

A union-wide catalogue of another kind is that of the contents of the libraries within the Government service, which is maintained at the office of the Chief Government Librarian, Mr. S. J. Kritzinger, at Pretoria.

(ii) *Provincial union catalogues of books*

All four Provinces aim to build up union catalogues of the books in their respective services and affiliated libraries. The most extensive of these is of course in the Cape, where punched-card apparatus has been installed to deal not only with the simplification of processing and the more efficient recording of stock, but also with the problem of recording the holdings of books in the existing, re-organized libraries as well as those being added on a vast scale to the services rendered to affiliated libraries. Where new books are concerned, the problem is comparatively straightforward, but the incorporation of older books presents more complications, owing, among other factors, to diversified forms of cataloguing.

The other Provinces are also at the building-up stage; thus, in the Transvaal system, union card catalogues of all holdings are maintained at the Central Library and at the Regional centres.

(iii) *Local union catalogues of books*

The larger municipal libraries maintain union catalogues of the libraries within their orbit - the Johannesburg Public Library and the Cape Town City Libraries being good examples of this practice. Similarly, university libraries with branch organization (such as those at

Cape Town and on the Rand) maintain what are in effect union catalogues of their sometimes far-flung resources.

(iv) *Union catalogues of periodicals*

The revision of Freer's *Catalogue of Union periodicals* has been in active progress during the period under review. The Humanities section has been in the care of Miss Elizabeth Hartmann at Witwatersrand University, supported by the National Council for Social Research; and the volume dealing with Science and Technology is being handled by Miss J. Greijbe and the staff of the Libraries Division of the Information and Special Services Department of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at Pretoria. The latter volume is being compiled on standard unit cards, and arrangement is being adapted from Freer's subject catchword to an alphabetical-title arrangement similar to that used in the *World List*.

A publication that should be mentioned here is the *List of periodicals currently received in terms of Act no. 9 of 1916 (the Copyright Act)*, produced by the State Library, Pretoria, in July 1956, and subsequently supplemented quarterly. It is intended to cumulate the supplements every five years. Also of importance is the *List of current periodicals in Government Departments* (1958), a substantial revision of the *List* issued in 1952, compiled and published from the office of the Chief Librarian, Department of Education, Arts and Science, Pretoria.

(v) *Union catalogues of theses*

A gap of which we have all been acutely conscious for many years past is now being filled at the Potchefstroom University for C.H.E. by Mr. S. I. Malan, who with a grant from the National Council for Social Research has completed his *Union catalogue of theses and dissertations accepted by South African universities, 1942-57*. Publication is expected shortly, and it is intended to supplement the work each year.

This is perhaps the best place to record the compilation of a similar work, but one which relates to a single university: the *List of theses and dissertations presented at the University of South Africa, 1919-57*. This is to be published in the series of "University of South Africa Communications" towards the end of 1958,

Yet another compilation of this character is the *Register of current scientific research at South African universities* compiled and published annually by the Library Division, Information and Special Services Department of the C.S.I.R.

CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHICAL COMPILATIONS

(i) *Current national lists*

The State Library, Pretoria, continued to issue its monthly lists of *Publications received in terms of the Copyright Act*, cumulated annually and arranged alphabetically. The South African Library in Cape Town continued to publish its current national bibliography in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library*. This bibliography includes not only works published in South Africa, but also works written about South Africa, and also works by South Africans, published overseas: these are arranged in classified order. In addition, the lists in the *Quarterly Bulletin* comprise a record of all "births and deaths" of South African periodicals, including annuals, and provide a full record of official publications issued within the relevant quarter. These lists have become so bulky, however, that in 1957 it was decided to experiment with publication by means of photolithographic reproduction, on the lines of the well-known publication *Canadiana*. A trial sheet was prepared for the information of delegates at the Pretoria Conference, 1957, and it is expected that the first number of the re-designed National Bibliography will be issued in September, 1958. It will be issued quarterly in the first instance, will contain fuller information than that hitherto given in the *Quarterly Bulletin*, and will carry an index each quarter, cumulated annually. The arrangements for distribution have not yet been concluded, but it is expected that the *Quarterly* and the *Bibliography* will be available on a combined subscription, and will also be obtainable separately. It should be added that the size and form of the entries has been designed to allow their reproduction in card form, should this prove a commercial proposition.

Apart from the lists from the two libraries mentioned, and the copyright lists issued by the other libraries of deposit (Bloemfontein Public Library and the Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg), the Library of Parliament is resuming its useful lists of *Africana* recently added to the Mendelssohn Collection, of which publication was temporarily suspended with the ninth issue in 1946.

Mention has already been made of the list of "copyright" periodicals issued by the State

(vi) *Union catalogue of Africana*

This project, amounting to a revision and supplementation of Mendelssohn's *South African bibliography* (1910), was specifically discussed in the *Proposals for bibliographical development* put forward at the Bloemfontein Conference of 1954. It has recently been revived, and a scheme for the compilation by photographic means of a union list of Africana, based on the two large collections in Cape Town, is at present under consideration by the authorities. The projects present many difficulties, but none that cannot be overcome provided that the requisite funds and personnel are made available.

DIRECTORIES OF RESOURCES

In order to assist specialist enquirers, research workers and others, the Cape Branch of the S.A. Library Association compiled and published, in November 1956, a *Directory of Cape libraries within fifty miles of Cape Town*¹ (ed. by Mr. A. M. Lewin Robinson, Assistant Chief Librarian, South African Library). This Directory includes no fewer than 80 libraries of all kinds in the Western Province, and the information given comprises the name, address and telephone number of each library; name of librarian; type of library and number of volumes; whether open to the public and on what conditions; loan facilities offered, including microfilm; 'specialities' and special collections; serial publications issued; and hours of opening. The list also serves as a useful guide to potential buyers of books, and there is a subject index as well as an index to special collections by name.

It is suggested that similar Directories should be compiled and issued for the main regions elsewhere in the Union.

¹ Copies are obtainable from the Chief Librarian, South African Library, Cape Town, at 3s. 6d. each.

Library, Pretoria, and of the quarterly lists hitherto included in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the S.A. Library*: the latter supplement the *List of periodicals received in terms of the Copyright Act* (Grey Bibliography no. 5) issued in 1951, of which a revised edition is now in preparation.

Another of the *Grey Bibliographies* published by the South African Library, the *Bibliography of African bibliographies* (no. 6, 1955), has been supplemented from time to time in the *Quarterly Bulletin*.

(ii) *Subject and author bibliographies*

(a) *Student bibliographies at U.C.T.*

A special feature of the Higher Certificate and Diploma Course in Librarianship at the University of Cape Town, since its inception nineteen years ago, has been the compilation by each student of a bibliography, usually on a South African subject, as a part-requirement for the final Certificate. In the opinion of the external examiner for this course, Mr. R. F. Kennedy, "these bibliographies provide excellent training for the embryo librarian. The student is forced to handle and use books, and to organize bibliographical material". Approximately 150 entries are asked for, varying with the nature of the subject chosen, and students are encouraged to use all available library sources (which in Cape Town are not inconsiderable). The best of these bibliographies have been published photolithographically by the University of Cape Town Libraries in their *Bibliographical series*, with a warning that they are not definitive, but student work achieved within a course of bibliographical training. Partly because the subjects chosen help to fill gaps in our subject bibliographical equipment, and partly (one hopes) because the general standard of the work done is acceptable, there has been a striking demand for these bibliographies from all parts of the world. Dr. O. H. Spohr, Assistant-in-charge of the Photographic Department, University of Cape Town Libraries, estimates that since the Course began, 110 bibliographies have been published, and that no fewer than 25,000 copies have been sold. In this way, all those concerned with the compilation of the bibliographies have been making a contribution to the bibliographical equipment of South Africa. This is also a good example of close and fruitful co-operation

between the two libraries concerned, for while the teaching has been undertaken at the University of Cape Town, the lecturer in bibliography is the Head of the South African Library, where much of the practical work, wherever possible under personal guidance, has been done.

Subjects of bibliographies submitted to the examiners during the period under review include the following (those marked* have already been published, and those marked** have been accepted for publication in due course): South African orchids*; South African autobiographies**; Novels in English and Afrikaans on South African history*; Constitutional development of the Church of the Province of South Africa, 1848-1936*; the Indian question in South Africa, 1946-56*; the artist, J. H. Pierneef and his work; History of roads in South Africa; Constantia and Wynberg; General Louis Botha**; the Theatre in South Africa; the Zulu War of 1879; Social medicine in South Africa*; the Anglo-Boer War: foreign opinion as reflected in overseas periodicals*; the Cape press, 1851-55*; Personal accounts of the Cape of Good Hope in printed books, 1715-50*; Swellendam; J. H. Hofmeyr ('Onze Jan'); Contribution to a bibliography of F. C. Kolbe; European education in South Africa, 1946-55**; South Africa as seen by the French, 1610-1850**; the Rebellion of 1914-15*; the Seventh Kaffir War; History of South African regiments**; Verticals in Afrikaans, 1941-50**; Eugène N. Marais*; Uys Krige and his writings*.

(b) *Systematic bibliographic and reading-lists*

Several libraries compiled and published systematic bibliographies and reading-lists, among them being the Reference List series put out by the C.S.I.R. Library Division on various scientific and technical subjects, numbering 21 in all. The Transvaal and Cape Provincial Libraries compiled a number of subject reading-lists, and the former revised their guide to *Reference books for public library use*, which was re-issued for the use of library students by the S.A. Library Association, at 2s. 6d. per copy. A classified list of Afrikaans non-fiction in the Transvaal Provincial Library Service has almost been completed. In Natal, the Provincial Library Service has completed a list of plays in stock, and the Bloemfontein Public Library is busy with a detailed list of Afrikaans plays

available in the National Drama Library there, giving author, title, publisher, date and price, male and female characters, changes of scene, costume and summary of plot.

The State Library, Pretoria, has continued to send annually, for inclusion in the *Index translationum* (Unesco, Paris) a list of translated works published in the Union of South Africa, giving the name of translator, original title and language. A list of publications on higher education in South Africa was also compiled for the International Universities Bureau in Paris. In the course of re-cataloguing and re-classifying the Ferdinand Postma Library at Potchefstroom University, an *Afrikaans list of subject headings* is being compiled by Mrs. J. C. van Rooy, of the Library staff.

(c) Catalogues of special collections

In his article on University library progress Mr. S. I. Malan draws attention to the urgent need for libraries with special collections of any kind to make their contents generally known: otherwise duplication of titles and uneconomic use of book-funds becomes inevitable. During the period under review some progress was made in this direction, but, taking the research and reference libraries as a whole, a great deal remains to be done.

The State Library issued a substantial *Select list of United States government publications added to the Smithsonian Collection*, January 1956-June 1958. Rhodes University published a catalogue of the map collection in the Cory Library for Historical Research - one of the very few bibliographies of South African maps to be issued during the past twenty years. The South African Library has been compiling (and filing in its main Africana catalogues) a detailed catalogue of the Africana in the Grey Collection. The University of Cape Town Libraries issued a brochure on the Bowle-Evans Collection, which has now been catalogued on cards. In collaboration with the Africana Museum, and under their imprint, the Johannesburg Public Library published a valuable descriptive catalogue of *Military medals of South African interest*, and also the *Pictorial history of Johannesburg*, compiled and edited by Miss Anna H. Smith.

The contents of many other special collections and resources, however, still remain undiscovered to all except the libraries possessing them.

(d) Inventories and guides to manuscript collections

A new development of considerable interest, however, was the inventorying and calendaring of manuscript collections in several libraries. Thus the South African Library, with the expert assistance of Professor Leslie Casson, began a *survey of the mediaeval manuscripts in the Grey Collection*. Many of these are now being identified and described by Professor Casson who is on study leave in Europe, as a basis for the re-cataloguing of the whole Collection, long overdue. A section of the *Molteno Papers* in the South African Library was also inventoryed and calendared during the period under review, through the welcome collaboration of the History Department of Rhodes University. The *University of Cape Town Libraries* made a beginning with the organization of their rapidly growing *Manuscripts Division*, amounting to 16,000 items in all. A detailed index to persons and subjects is being compiled. The pioneer library in the organization of South African manuscript collections, *Rhodes University*, issued a further list of *Accessions to the Cory Library* (no. 12) in 1956.

(e) Compilation of indexes to books and periodicals

Another activity of the greatest practical value and importance has been the compilation of a number of new indexes - time-savers *par excellence* to all users and administrators of research and reference libraries. Taking the lead in this direction, the *Johannesburg Public Library* not only continued to compile and publish the *Index to South African periodicals* (annual), which has become an indispensable reference tool, but has produced one other major indexing publication, the *Register van Suid-Afrikaanse poësie*. In this work, the indexing has been so thoroughly done that, for the period covered, it will probably remain the standard work of reference in its field. Apart from this, the Johannesburg Public Library has issued a number of indexes to books of South African interest, including Cutten's *History of the press in South Africa*, A. W. Burton's *Sparks from the Border anvil*, P. W. Laidler's *Pre-Victorian products of the Cape press*, Thornley Smith's *South Africa delineated*, John Widdicombe's *Memories and musings*, and Thomas Pringle's *English settlers in Albany*. This Library has two other major projects in hand:

the compilation of a *Subject, numerical and name index to Cape of Good Hope Annexures to Votes and Proceedings* . . . 1854-1910, which will be an important source of information of many kinds; and an *Index to portraits in Africana books to 1952* (to be published, it is hoped, in 1959).

Indexes of another kind are those appearing in each of the annual publications of the Van Riebeeck Society, whose headquarters are at the South African Library, Cape Town. Thus the volume for 1956, *Archdeacon Merriman's Cape journals, 1848-55*, edited by D. H. Varley and H. M. Matthew, contains a great deal of biographical and topographical material in the footnotes, to which reference is made in the Index.

Three South African journals of library interest were indexed during this period: *Mousaion*, nos. 1-24, by the University of South Africa; a Cumulative index to the *South African journal of science*, vols. 1-50, by Mr. I. Isaacson at Witwatersrand University; and a Cumulative index to our own *South African libraries*, vols. 1-25, which is being undertaken by Mr. J. C. Lessing at the Potchefstroom University Library.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

Mention has already been made of several publications issued by South African libraries in the period 1956-58; for the sake of completeness, they are recapitulated here, together with a few to which no reference has been made elsewhere. The South African Library issued its *Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library. Africana notes and news* (quarterly) was published from the Africana Museum, Johannesburg, under the editorship of the City Librarian, Mr. R. F. Kennedy, who was also Director of the Museum. Three new journals

have appeared from the Provincial systems: the *Cape Librarian*, *Free State Libraries*, and *Natal Libraries*. *Mousaion*, with continuing library interest, has been published from the University of South Africa. Two library "house journals", the *Jaggerite* (University of Cape Town Libraries) and the *Cauldron* (Johannesburg Public Library) have been quiescent during the period under review. *South African libraries* and the monthly *Newsletter* of the S. A. Library Association have continued to carry news and views of library progress in the sub-Continent.

Successful collaboration between the University of Cape Town Libraries and the South African Library was continued with the publication of further items in the Willem Hiddingh Reprint series.

CONCLUSION

When one takes into consideration the comparatively small population of Southern Africa, and the considerations of distance which still inhibit to some extent the implementation of unified bibliographical undertakings, the record of bibliographical activity during the past two years is on the whole encouraging. It should also be mentioned that each of the six library schools in the country, and each in its own way, is giving instruction in bibliographical method and practice to the coming generation of librarians.

But what is still needed, as urgently as in 1954, when these matters were last debated on a national scale, is closer contact between libraries occupied in any kind of bibliographical work, and the organization of effective means for the exchange of information and ideas. Ways and means of achieving this will no doubt be discussed at the Cape Town Conference to be held in September 1958.

AFRIKAANSE LEKTUUR VAN DIE TWEEDE KWARTAAL VAN 1958

deur

D. L. EHLERS

LETTERKUNDE

Brink, A. P. *Die meul teen die hang*. Tafelberg.

'n Eerstelingsnovelle deur 'n belowende jong skrywer. Sy skryfstyl tref my as besonder ingetoë en suiwer vir so 'n jong skrywer. Die tema word strak en eenvoudig uitgewerk en die verhaal beweeg teen 'n redelike pas. Ek sal hierdie skrywer se loopbaan met belangstelling volg.

Coetzee, A. *Lewenslank*. Dagbreek.

Ek staan by hierdie boek effens langer stil as gewoonlik, omdat dit in 'n tydskrif m.i. glad te hoog aangeslaan is. Dit mag 'n baie interessante poging tot 'n metafisiese prosawerk wees; tog het dit as sodanig nie geslaag nie. Albert Camus sê in *L'homme révolté* dat die kuns, sonder sigbare inspanning, die versoening van die unieke met die universele waarvan Hegel gedroom het, teweegbring. Dit is wat so uitnemend gebeur in die beste filosofiese roman wat ek ken, *Die Broers Karamazov*. In hierdie boek egter, kry ons opsetlike metafisiese bespiegeling, „'n stukkie dorre lewenswysheid” soos die skrywer self iewers sê; geen openbarende insidente of karakterbeelding deur handeling wat tot een lewende, organiese eenheid vergroei het nie. Banaliteite soos „die verkoue kiem is op sy laaste been” en „Pietie ... wat getroef is deur die dood” is maar twee voorbeelde wat getuig van 'n onversorgde styl.

De Klerk, W. A. *Willemien se ligte dae*. Afrikaanse pers.

Hierdie boek kon 'n heeltemal gawe jeugverhaal gewees het as die skrywer net die wyse gesegde *ars est celare artem* in gedagte gehou het en die snoeimes oordeelkundig gebruik het. Nou het die verdienstelike dele so verstrikk geraak in 'n klomp onnodige ballas dat die vlot verloop van die verhaal ernstig benadeel

word. Die beste dele in die boek is beskrywings van die natuurskoon van die Boland wat die skrywer met oortuiging en liefde doen.

Louw, W. E. G. *Ou wyn van vreugde*. Balkema.

Die bekende digter wat, tussen hakies, hom in hierdie bundel en die een wat hierop volg openbaar as 'n uitstekende prosaskrywer, herwaardeer in hierdie boek die werk van die Afrikaanse digters Totius, Leipoldt en Marais. Met skerp onderskeidingsvermoë wys hy op dié dele van hulle poësie wat deur die jare die glans van skoonheid behou het en nog steeds vreugde verskaf.

Louw, W. E. G. *Vaandels en voetangels*. Balkema.

Opstelle oor Afrikaanse en Nederlandse poësie maak die inhoud van die eerste deel uit, terwyl die tweede deel polemiese stukke bevat. Persoonlik het ek die tweede deel met sy snedige opmerkings die meeste geniet. Dis hoog tyd dat sulke dinge van tyd tot tyd gesê sal word deur mense wat werklik met gesag kan praat.

Malherbe, D. F. *Sisera*. Nasionale boekhandel.

Nog 'n Bybelse versdrama deur hierdie vrugbare veteraan-skrywer. Wat gehalte betref, staan dit op een peil met die ander drama's wat die afgelope paar jaar van hom verskyn het. Ek voel steeds dat Malherbe sy beste werk reeds gelewer het.

Van Niekerk, D. *Gannavlei*. Dagbreek.

Alhoewel ek saamstem dat hierdie nuwe skrywer beslis moontlikhede het, ¹meen ek tog dat sommige kritici hierdie roman te hoog geskat het. Dat dit beter is as die gewone tipe ontspanningsleesstof wat ons gewoonweg teenkom, kan nie betwyfel word nie. Maar 'n skrywer wat hom besondig met sinne soos:

„Die meisie se oë boer op hom . . . Hulle pen hom vas . . .” het nog nie die vermoë om die fyn instrument van die gevoelige taal fouteloos te hanteer nie.

Venter, F.A. *Swart pelgrim*. Tafelberg.

Gewoonlik maak ek nie melding van herdrukke in hierdie rubriek nie. Toe hierdie boek egter oorspronklik verskyn het in 1952 het dit weens onaansienlike uiterlike en die feit dat dit in 'n reeks tussen ander minderwaardige boeke verskyn het, nie die aandag getrek wat dit toekom nie. Vandag word algemeen erken dat hierdie boek een van die beste romans is wat ooit in Afrikaans verskyn het. Die skrywer het die werk heelwat verbeter en die uitgewers het hierdie tweede verbeterde druk in 'n gewaad die lig laat sien wat die inhoud waardig is.

Stevens, R. E. *Wêreldletterkunde: die kortverhaal*. Kinderkultuurvereniging.

Die bekendste kortverhale in Afrikaans vertaal, word hier in ses swierige bande aangebied. Dit is 'n lofwaardige onderneming en 'n verryking van ons Afrikaanse lektuur. As ek egter een punt van kritiek mag opper, dan wil ek sê dat volgens my smaak daar te veel Amerikaanse verhale opgeneem is, terwyl meer verdienstelike verhale uit die ander letterkundes agterweë moes bly. Etlike verhale is ook niks anders as verminkte uittreksels uit langer werke nie.

Oberholster, J. A. S. *Nie van brood alleen*. N. G. kerkuitgewers.

'n Beknopte geskiedenis van die N. G. kerkuitgewers wat voorheen bekend was as die S. A. Bybelvereniging. Dit is 'n nuttige byvoeging tot die geskiedenis van uitgewery in ons land waarvan die waarde verhoog word deur 'n lys van die publikasies waarvoor hierdie betrokke uitgewery verantwoordelik was.

Scholes, P. A. *Musiek-handleiding vir die radio-luisteraar*. Oxford univ. press.

'n Vertaling in Afrikaans deur dr. F. Z. van der Merwe van hierdie bekende Engelse handleiding. Eintlik is die titel misleidend. Die boek bestaan net uit 'n alfabetiese lys musiekterme met kort definisies of verklarings. In die proses van vertaling is daar 'n heel klompie Afrikaanse musiekterme geskep oor die verdienste waarvan ek egter nie hier kan uitwei nie.

ALLERLEI

Booyesen, C. M. *Wellewendheid vir jongmense*. Nasionale boekhandel.

Die skrywer is tereg begaan oor die vervlakking van geestelike waardes onder ons volk. Hy probeer hier op eenvoudige wyse aantoon hoe 'n beskaafde, ordentlike mens hom in die samelewing behoort te gedra. Dit is 'n boek wat met vrug deur onderwysers op skool gebruik kan word.

Bouman, P. J. *Die revolusie van die eensames*. Nasionale boekhandel.

'n Vertaling deur Leon Rousseau van 'n werk wat in die oorspronklike Hollands en in ander tale 'n groot afset geniet het. Deur gebeurtenisse uit die afgelope halfeeu op 'n oorspronklike wyse te rangskik, probeer die skrywer die ontreding en vereensaming van die moderne mens aantoon.

Dekker, A. M. en Ries, J. H. *Woordeboek: Afrikaans-Zoeloe, Zoeloe-Afrikaans*. Afrikaanse pers.

Dis die eerste woordeboek van sy soort wat ek ken en as sodanig moet ek dit hartlik verwelkom as 'n nuttige toevoeging tot ons naslaanwerke.

De Klerk, E. *Oom Giepie Rossouw*. Tafelberg.

Oom Giepie Rossouw het roem verwerf as praktiese boer en as boereleier. Dit was sy lewenstaak. Dit is dus verstaanbaar dat hierdie boek ook noodgedwonge 'n relaas moes gee van die ontstaan en ontwikkeling van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie tot die sterk en doeltreffende organisasie wat dit vandag is. Die boek lees vlot en is 'n inspirerende menslike dokument.

Kinderkultuurvereniging: *Die moderne ensiklopedie*. Die vereniging.

Die moeilikheid met 'n boek soos hierdie een, is dat 'n mens nie weet wat om daarvan te verwag nie. Om in 'n skrale 560 bladsye die menslike kennis saam te vat en ook nog af en toe 'n illustrasie of wat in te gooi, is 'n onbegonne taak, al begin jy ook met *aap* en eindig met *sputnik* in 'n spesiale byvoeging. Die boek is dus meer volgens die geaardheid van 'n ensiklopediese woordeboek opgestel as volgens 'n volbloed ensiklopedie. Suid-Afrikaanse persone en onderwerpe geniet natuurlik voorkeur.

SOME RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN BOOKS IN ENGLISH

by

R. B. ZAAIMAN AND L. JAFFE

POLITICS

Friend, Margaret L. *Without fear or favour.* No publisher. 198 p.

Mrs. Friend is the wife of a United Party senator and wrote this book in refutation of Father Huddleston's *Naught for your comfort*. Unfortunately her arguments are weakened by an unreadable style of writing.

Grobler, J. H. *Africa's destiny.* Book of the month club. 207 p.

It is important that political argument should be advanced in terms acceptable to one's opponents. Senator Grobler does not take this into account in his defence of separate constitutional development of the various racial groups in South Africa. Harsh words are used. The style of printing – plenty of capitals, both ordinary and cursive, too many underlined passages – made this work tiring reading to the present reviewer.

Jan Toekoms, pseud. *South Africa's eleventh hour.* C.N.A. 120 p.

An intelligent appraisal of the political situation between English-speaking and Afrikaans-speaking South Africans, and between black and white. The author has a sympathetic understanding of the attitudes and characteristics of the two white groups – more balanced, in fact, than I have found in any other contemporary analysis. He ends with a plea for a policy of gradual integration of all racial groups.

SPORT

Maclean, Roy. *Sackcloth without ashes.* Timmins. 179 p.

An excellent volume on the 1956–57 M.C.C. tour of South Africa. Apart from a general

discussion of players and problems, a close description of each test is given, with many photographs and statistics.

South Africa and Rhodesia Women's Hockey Association. *Hockey in a nutshell.* 131 p.

According to an acquaintance, a hockey expert, this book is a "must" for all teachers and umpires of the game. Miss Emmie Hartmann, who is responsible for the publication, is an acknowledged authority on the subject, and every aspect of hockey is explored. The narrative is helped by clear photographs and diagrams, and there is a most useful annotated bibliography.

POETRY

Beaumont, John Howland. *Poems.* Balkema. 64 p.

The first collection of work by this contemporary poet. The quality of the poems is uneven, but the best ones are of a high standard of merit.

Macnab, Roy. *Poets in South Africa.* Maskew Miller. 111 p.

This first anthology in ten years of mainly contemporary South African English verse is excellent, both in scope and in selectiveness. Some translations from Afrikaans, Xhosa and Zulu are included. The merit of the chosen poems is a heartening refutation of the opinion, if it still exists, that English literature in South Africa is in the doldrums. Biographical notes are supplied, but the bibliographical details given for each author are sketchy.

Miller, G. M. and Sargeant, Howard. *A critical survey of South African poetry in English.* Balkema. 176 p.

A thorough review and evaluation of South African English poetry since the first poem written and printed here. The style is very readable and should appeal to the general reader. A chapter is given to contemporary verse, but this should be supplemented by further reading, e.g. Roy Macnab's anthology, as some of the important young poets are not mentioned. This is a small defect in a book which I strongly recommend. Extensive bibliography.

Van Zyl, Tania. *Shadow and wall.* Nasionale boekhandel. 60 p.

The first published collection of poetry by Miss van Zyl. The volume is divided into two sections "Shadow and wall" and "Women".

HUMOUR

Moorât, Norman. *The clods press on.* Timmins. 174 p.

The author's first funny farming story *Three clods in clover* was a popular success and has since reached its third impression. This sequel is likely to be equally popular.

HISTORY

Krüger, D. W. *The age of the generals: a short political history of the Union of South Africa, 1910-1948.* Dagbreek book store. 229 p.

The author is professor of history at the Potchefstroom University, and wrote this book while staying in London as a Fellow of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. He deals with a time during which three ex-Boer War generals, Botha, Smuts and Hertzog were the national heroes and political leaders. During this period the Union developed from four small colonies into one sovereign state, and Prof. Krüger views the contributions of the three leaders towards this development with an acute, unbiased and occasionally ironical eye. Recommended, even required reading for anyone who wishes to understand South African politics.

Lighton, Conrad. *Sisters of the south.* Timmins. 343 p.

In 1951 Mr. Lighton published *Sisters of the south* - a story of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. This book, covering a field not previously explored, was so well received - and deservedly - that the author has revised and enlarged it.

Starting in 1787 when the frigate "Sirius" and ten other ships carrying the first settlers to Australia, broke their long and arduous voyage to spend a month at the Cape - it continues up to present time, when one can breakfast in Johannesburg and lunch, the following day, in Perth.

Many aspects of the relationship of the three Commonwealth countries are discussed - personalities, historic and contemporary; commerce, agriculture; times of peace and of war.

A most interesting and readable book of particular use to reference librarians.

The Star. *The story of South Africa.* 56 p.

Collected into a single volume are a series of articles on the history of South Africa, from the landing of van Riebeeck to the outbreak of the last war. Appearing weekly in the Johannesburg "Star" last year, the volume is not a helpful reference tool as the articles are unsigned and there is no index, bibliography, etc. - but it is recommended as a readable, objective summary of South African history.

BIOGRAPHY

Day, Eric. *Brigadier to barman.* Timmins. 173 p.

A soldier, retired from the regular army, enters the hotel trade. A fairly entertaining account of his adventures with staff and guests, giving the reader some insight into the many and onerous duties of "mine host". Amusingly illustrated by Lucy Wiles.

Filmer, Harry J. and Parry, Constance. *Reefs of fortune.* C.N.A. 152 p.

The part Harry Filmer played in the affairs of the Witwatersrand from 1885 to 1920 is told by his son in this book. He was one of the first organisers of the gold-diggers and served on the Sanitary Board and later on the Town Council. The views of what might

have been called a typical "Uitlander", in strong opposition to President Kruger, and the day-to-day life of the time increase the interest of this work.

Wicht, Hein. *Road below me.* Timmins. 158 p.

Mr. Wicht's insatiable wanderlust has taken him not only to distant parts of Africa, but also to Siberia, the southern Andes, Hawaiian islands and other remote places. Travelling by land, air and the most primitive forms of sea

transport, his roaming is the more remarkable when one remembers that he is a tuberculosis victim. Born in Sea Point, educated (as far as he would allow himself to be) in Ireland, he developed his taste for wide open spaces when farming on the Cape Flats as a young man.

The author has certainly led a varied life and although his narrative and style of writing are a little disjointed, those who like books of travel and adventure will find *Road below me* enjoyable reading.

TRIBUTE TO MISS MARY GUNN

The issue of *The Flowering plants of Africa* for July, 1958 (no. 128, vol. 32, part 4) carries a gracious and well-deserved tribute to one of our senior library colleagues. A full-page portrait of Miss Mary Gunn has the following citation: "This volume is gratefully dedicated to Mary Gunn, librarian, authority on Africana, who during her 40 years of service in the Department of Agriculture has with unremitting devotion built up a comprehensive botanical library in the Division of Botany, who has assisted so many research workers in tracing literature relevant to their problems, and who has since its inception fostered the best interests of *Flowering plants of Africa*."

Print simplified, by Pierre H. Ollemans. Bloemfontein, "The Friend" Newspaper Ltd. (1957). xii, 106p.

This short handbook is designed "to assist non-technical personnel to gain a working knowledge of trade terms and the basic principles of the main printing processes, without too much technical detail". It certainly includes some useful introductory matter on subjects such as printers' measurements, colour separation and the Aller lithographic processes by which the book itself is produced. There is also a handy glossary of terms.

It is a pity, however, that more attention was not given to the production details of the handbook itself. The title-page, which is numbered, bears no date, and has an unfortunate printer's error: *Antique* for *Antique* wove. There are other errors in the text, and the reproductions of illustrations are disappointing. Nevertheless the work is to be welcomed as the first South African handbook of its kind.

D. H. V.

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